



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/748,392 | 12/27/2000 | Munenori Iizuka | Q62487 | 3771 |

7590 04/04/2003

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037-3202

EXAMINER

WOODWARD, ANA LUCRECIA

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
| 1711 | 16 |

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS-16

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | Examiner | Group Art Unit | |

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Priod for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE Three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/15/02, 12/16/02, 01/21/03.
- This action is **FINAL**.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1-57 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) 8-56 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 1-7 and 57 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority und **r** 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

All Some* None of the:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received
in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). B Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

DETAILED ACTION***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election of a polyamide obtained from meta-xylylenediamine and adipic acid and polypropylene as the ultimate species of the mixed resin components in Paper No. 15 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

2. Claims 8-56 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in Paper No. 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the

Art Unit: 1711

reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-7 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over XP-002166020 as per reasons of record.

6. Claims 1-7 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. 6,302,153 (Merziger).

Merziger et al disclose polyamide/polyolefin blends filled with electrically conductive carbon black as the inner layer to a tube. In the “second preferred form” of the invention, the polyolefin is polypropylene (column 4, lines 22-26, column 5, lines 37- et seq.).

The compositions of the reference meet the requirements of the present claims both in terms of the types of materials added and their contents.

7. Claims 1-7 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. 5,004,561 (Nomura et al).

Nomura et al disclose electromagnetic wave-shielding thermoplastic resin compositions comprising

(A) 100 parts by weight of a thermoplastic resin, inclusive of polyamides and polypropylenes

(B) 30 to 300 parts by weight of electrically conductive glass fibers,

Art Unit: 1711

(C) 5 to 40 parts by weight of carbon black and

(D) 5 to 40 parts by weight of graphite.

In example 10, the reference discloses a composition comprising nylon MXD 6, nylon 66, carbon black, graphite, conductive glass fiber, brominated polystyrene and antimony trioxide. It is reasonably believed that the brominated polystyrene meets the terms of a resin having a water absorption no higher than 0.3% as required by the present claims. The onus is shifted to applicants to establish that the products of the present claims are not the same as or obvious from those of the prior art.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed August 15, 2002 with respect to the rejection over XP-002166020 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The compositions disclosed by the reference meet the requirements of the present claims both in terms of the types of materials added and their contents. Applicants have not established that the products of the reference are not the same as or obvious from those of the reference. Applicant's argument that the reference does not teach, suggest or appreciate the advantages of a mixed resin compound as presently claimed is not well taken since the reference clearly teaches that a resin mixture with balanced physical properties is obtained. Even if applicants have recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the suggestion of the prior art, such cannot be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985). Accordingly, the rejection over XP '020 is maintained.

Art Unit: 1711

9. Applicants' arguments filed August 15, 2002 are effective to the extent that the rejection over U.S. 4,702,859 to Shimizu et al has been withdrawn.

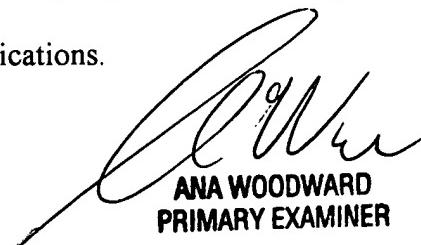
10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ana L. Woodward whose telephone number is (703) 308-2401. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James J. Seidleck can be reached on (703) 308-2462. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.



ANA WOODWARD
PRIMARY EXAMINER